

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 52

December 2005

No. 10



Calendar

Sun., Jan. 1	New Year's Day reception, Town Hall, 4–6 pm (see p 6)	Thurs., Jan. 12	Christmas tree pickup
Mon., Jan. 2	Yard waste collection	Fri., Jan. 20	Film Society, <i>City of God</i> , Town Hall: Brazilian soup supper 7:15; speaker 7:45; movie 8:15
Sat., Jan. 7	Large item pickup	Sat., Jan. 21	Town Dinner, 6 pm (see p 2); note date change
Sun., Jan. 8	Postal rates change	Sun., Jan. 29	Reception, Penn Place lobby, 2 pm: Installation of new cushions and opening of Jane Salomon's exhibit of watercolors (see p 4)
Mon., Jan. 9	New hours at our PO (see p 7)		
Mon., Jan. 9	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm		
Tues., Jan. 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm		

Peace on Council, Good Will Toward Mayor

A chat with State Senator Jennie Forehand and State Delegate Luiz Simmons preceded this month's Council meeting. After dinner with Councilmembers, our representatives sat down with about 20 townspeople to update us on pending legislative matters and to hear from Garrett Parkers about other issues of interest to them. Comments and attitudes on both sides of the table reflected a Blue State disposition: opposition to gambling, dissatisfaction with No Child Left Behind, a willingness to consider raising taxes.

Although the state has a surplus, Delegate Simmons commented, "We're in a culture where everyone wants to maintain services, but few people want the taxes that pay for them." "In a way, things are more difficult when there's a sur-

plus than when there's a shortfall," added Senator Forehand. "Everybody's got their hand out."

Delegate Simmons talked a good deal about public safety. He is working, for instance, toward an override of the veto on car speed monitoring machines. Among newly passed laws, one responds to the problem of witness intimidation by allowing certain forms of hearsay evidence, and another makes it a crime to refuse to take a Breathalyzer test.

After some discussion, the representatives left, and the scene shifted to the Town Council meeting. Two Councilmembers—Art Bennett and Tony Altar—were absent, one due to illness and the other due to attendance at a conference. Council-

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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(continued from previous page)
man Soltan's motion that the town officers wish Art a rapid recovery passed by acclamation.

There were no citizen presentations.

In the Mayor's Report, she praised our town roads crew, whose work on snow removal was so spectacular that we received no citizen complaints about snow. The Mayor concluded her brief remarks by wishing everyone "the appropriate holiday greetings."

There were no Councilmember Reports.

In line with the season, this was a hohoho sort of Council session, with much joshing and friendly byplay between the Mayor and the Council. "The Council," the Mayor noted at one point, "has become a little silly."

Peter Benjamin introduced an ordinance to adjust this year's budget to make it more understandable by everyone and reflective of the Council, and to make sure we know where all the money is, and where it's going. His motion to accept this revised budget passed unanimously.

Dennis Collins updated the work of the Penn Place parking committee, which recently met with a traffic consultant and continues to discuss traffic, parking, and pedestrian configurations. Councilman Benjamin thanked him for the update and said he looked forward to the committee's report. He also said that adequate parking for the people who use Penn Place must be part of any recommendation from the committee, and that at this point the cost estimates he's seeing for various proposed elements of the work seem a bit high.

One final item of business from the Mayor, having to do with the Junior Achievement organization, baffled the Council. "What's Junior Achievement?" asked Soltan, who grew up in Communist Poland and still isn't up to speed. "What are they asking us for?" queried Benjamin. "We need clarification before we can do anything on this one." The Mayor attempted to provide some background, recalling a Junior Achievement student of hers who "went to junkyards and collected seatbelts out of wrecked cars with his partners. Then they polished them up a bit and sold them. It's that sort of thing. The glories of the cap-

italist system." Despite this insight, the Council remained baffled, and the matter was postponed.

There were no information items.

The meeting ended with an update on that Garrett Park institution, the Shelley Court Sinkhole. "They say they've fixed it," said Peter Benjamin, "and to the casual eye it looks pretty good. But we remain skeptical."


Margaret Soltan

Town Dinner Is Coming

This year's Town Dinner will be on Saturday, January 21, at 6 pm at the Town Hall. Meeting, greeting, and munching will begin at 6 pm and formal eating at 6:30. As in past years, this is a potluck supper. Please bring your own serving and eating utensils, and one of the following for 8 to 10 people: appetizers, salad and breads, main dish, or dessert. *Bring your own eating utensils!* A fee of \$5 will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, drinks, and paper goods. Space is limited, so call Barbara Shidler as soon as possible to reserve your spot and say what you will be bringing to share. (Could we have more salads this year?) If you can help decorate the Town Hall on that morning (January 21, 10 am), we need you.

Come join us that evening in welcoming the new year to our town and having a say in who is elected to the next Citizens Association board (the vote will be the first order of business after dinner). Since this year's 4th of July theme was "Goin' to the Dogs," the dinner theme will also be dog-related. Speaking of which, we need to borrow some big dog food bowls to make decorations. If you have one you could spare for two or three weeks, please get it to me by January 10 (you can leave it on my front porch). Make sure your name is on the underside so that we can return it. Also, we would like some pictures of town dogs, past or present. You can leave those in the *Bugle* mailbox on my front porch. Have the pooch's and your names on the back so that we can return those also. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer




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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Jack Mandel
Vice president: Matt Stavish
Treasurer: Anne Mizoguchi
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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Snow Removal: Winter has certainly arrived, and our first snowstorm has occurred. In order to assist our contractor, David Gregg, as well as Butch and Frank, in keeping our streets clear, please remember the following:

- Park cars off the streets when snow is predicted.
- Do not block intersections, particularly the Kenilworth/Rokeby barricade. This allows access for emergency vehicles and speeds up plowing.
- Keep sidewalks in front of your homes shoveled. The Town Maintenance Department will take care of Penn Place and the Town Hall. Please call the Town Office if you would like a list of young residents who are interested in work shoveling snow.
- Argyle Avenue is closed for sledding when snow falls. Be especially careful where Argyle meets Rokeby at Wells Park. Should the hill become icy, the hill will be cleared or sanded.
- Driveways are not plowed as part of the town's snow removal contract. Residents are asked to clear their own driveways all the way to the street.

We will make every effort to push back driveways and clear out snowbound cars. If you experience unusual problems, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Leaf Removal, Yard Waste: Leaf removal will finish at the end of December. Weather permitting, the remaining piles will be taken away. Please do not put leaves in the street after the first of the year. Remember, yard waste is collected only on the first Monday of January and February. We will return to weekly collection in March.

Trash Collection, Large Items, and Christmas Trees: Trash and recycling will take place the Mondays after Christmas and New Year's. There will be a large item pickup on Saturday, January 7, and Christmas trees will be collected curbside on Thursday, January 12.

Holiday Tips: Many residents have given generously to the Holiday Tip Fund for the men who collect our trash. If anyone wishes to make a gift, it is not too late. We typically receive numerous contributions after Christmas and make a second "New Year" distribution to these deserving individuals.

Town Dinner: The date for the Town Dinner has been changed to January 21. Save the date!

Laura, Butch, and Frank join me in wishing all town residents a happy holiday season. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call us at 301-933-7488. (The office will be closed on Friday, December 23; Monday, December 26; and Monday, January 2.)

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

Citizens Association Election

Each year in January, citizens attending the Town Dinner elect GPCA officers for the coming year. Several current officers have decided to move on to other endeavors, so we are looking for people to fill their positions and provide new leadership for the GPCA. The GPCA sponsors many of Garrett Park's traditional activities, including July 4, the Newcomers' Reception, and the Town Dinner, and it has started some of its own "new traditions," such as the Halloween Haunted Woods, Luminaria Walk, and Summer Game Nights. We also host discussions on issues of common concern (e.g., pedestrian safety, setback, and zoning issues) and lead special projects, such as the Memorial Bricks at Penn Place. This year, we will need new people to serve as Co-President, Treasurer, and "publicist," responsible for signs, event notices, and articles for the *Bugle*. We also need event chairs and volunteers for many jobs. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity for contributing to our town's civic life and provide your own ideas for future GPCA activities, please call Gene Brantly or another current officer (Jack Mandel, Matt Stavish, Anne Mizoguchi, and Laura Krupp). We look forward to starting the New Year with an energized group of officers for 2006!

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Traffic Light

We request and support the conversion of the existing traffic light at Strathmore and Kenilworth to a fully operating signal. (Currently, the signal generally flashes yellow but turns to red when initiated by pedestrians or bikers.) This is a busy intersection with many pedestrians passing through, including a high number of children.

A fully operating traffic light at this intersection will be safer for all. Although the current mode of operation may have seemed like a good idea initially, we now see that even after the light has been in place for a reasonable period of time, drivers sometimes still do not stop when the light turns red. It is very dangerous when pedestrians and bikers feel they are safe to cross at a red light, and yet drivers go through the intersection because they are not in the habit of having to stop.

Our children walk to and from school through this intersection, and even though a very experienced crossing guard is at this intersection, it would still be safer with a fully operating light. In addition to children at two elementary schools using this intersection, many people, including senior citizens, pass through this intersection

when a crossing guard is not on duty. People use this intersection to walk and bike to the Post Office, Black Market restaurant, the Town Hall, the Garrett Park Pool (especially children), trails along Rock Creek, the MARC train station, and Metro. Many of these people are infrequent visitors, such as restaurant and Post Office patrons, who are not familiar with this intersection with its unusual operation and intermittent red light.

In addition, with more and more traffic on Strathmore, it is increasingly difficult to get in and out of via this intersection. The longer waits and increased difficulty of turning due to more traffic are causing drivers to take more and riskier chances at getting on and off Strathmore. This is a recipe for an accident that may cause injury or worse, a fatality.

Converting this light to a fully operational traffic light can easily be done and is feasible. It is just plain common sense that this intersection will be much safer to all when it becomes a fully operational traffic control signal. Let's change it sooner rather than later for safety reasons.

Charles and Patricia Berry

Art at Penn Place

The current exhibition in the upstairs lobby at Penn Place features the work of Kenilworth Avenue resident Ruth Trattner. Ruth took up painting seriously after she retired and has received training at the University of Maryland and through the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Her medium is oil paint, and her inspiration is generally drawn from nature. The subjects of her landscapes range from her Garrett Park back yard to places she has traveled. By capturing these scenes on canvas, she hopes to convey to the viewer the pleasure that she experiences from natural beauty. Ruth's work will be hanging at Penn Place from December 18 through January 27.

Needlepoint Cushions

A year ago, a number of Garrett Parkers answered the call and volunteered to make needlepoint cushions for the window seats in the Post Office. Since that time, subjects for the cushions were chosen and designed, the scenes were stitched, backgrounds and titles were finished, the work was blocked, and the cushions were assembled. On January 29, the results will be unveiled for all to see—and sit on. The needlepoint committee chose to illustrate a number of Garrett Park's most distinctive buildings and institutions, including Penn Place, the Post Office, the Town Hall, GIVES, the Arboretum, and the town logo. All the artwork was designed by Jane Salomon. She provided the designs and sugges-

tions for colors, but from there the needlepointers were on their own to come up with colors, shading, and appropriate stitches. The results are something that the town can enjoy for years to come. The cushions will bring color and hand-crafted individuality to the Post Office lobby—and comfort to the hard window seats.

In addition to Jane, the committee included Pat Logan, who also did all the letters and numbers and blocked the designs; Lisa Kaeser; Marilyn Greenberg; Veronica Sauvain; and Suzi Zbar. Even the yarn in the cushions is special, much of it donated by Lisa Kaeser from her late grandmother's collection.

The town is invited to a reception to install the cushions and to recognize and thank the needlepointers for their year of hard work to produce this special gift to the town. The reception will be in Penn Place at 2 on Sunday, January 29. The reception also marks the opening of an exhibit of Jane Salomon's watercolors in the Penn Place lobby—part of the Art at Penn Place series. It is especially fitting that these two events coincide, since Jane was the driving force behind the project to create the window cushions. We hope everyone will drop by Penn Place to celebrate both the cushions and the art opening.

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark.org/

Ben Franklin

Long-time resident Ben Franklin died at his home on Rokeby on November 19 surrounded by his family. He had been fighting a battle with lung cancer for a long time. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jane, and children Abby Plumer of New York City, Betsy of Urbana, and Clare Duran of Geneva, Switzerland. He is also survived by five grandchildren, one of which arrived one week before he died.

Ben, who was noted for his distaste for speed humps in town, was a master of the fight for the rights of Garrett Park citizens, especially when it came to traffic matters. Maybe that came from his years as a *New York Times* reporter covering civil rights battles, strip-mining dangers, and a large group of corrupt union and political leaders. For his work on the trials and tribulations of Vice-President and ex-Maryland governor Spiro Agnew, Ben received the Sigma Delta Chi Award for distinguished journalism from the Society of Professional Journalists. Since 1993, Ben was the editor of the *Washington Spectator*, a liberal-leaning newsletter focused on politics.

He will be missed at Town Dinners, Citizens Association meetings, and town forums, and by those of us whom he helped when we needed to get things like obituaries into the local papers. He was there when I needed him.

Mary Moyer

Ann P. Brown Smith

Former Garrett Parker Ann Brown Smith was born in Everson, Pennsylvania, in the heart of the coal mining territory on May 11, 1916; she died peacefully in her sleep in Carlsbad, California, on the warm, sunny day of November 19, 2005. She was 89.

At Seton Hill College in Pennsylvania, she was tutored by a young Ph.D., Dr. George T. Brown, who subsequently moved on to the faculty of Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Ann was also drawn to CU after graduating from Seton Hill in 1937, and although we don't have the details, we know that she married George Brown

on May 13, 1940, in her home town church. One can only rely on one's imagination to fill in the details about that three-year courtship.

Following her marriage, she raised a family of five well-adjusted children and four or five psychotic dogs in Garrett Park, in a house they built on a wooded acre of land. She was a leader in local Democratic politics, serving as chair of the Montgomery County State Central Committee, twice representing Maryland at Democratic National Conventions, and she ran for the state legislature one year.

During these years she often entertained friends and family on a large scale, at home, with food she prepared in her own kitchen. These parties sometimes resembled the miracle of the loaves and the fishes, but somehow everyone always seemed to get enough to eat and drink, and then it wouldn't be long before she was planning the next one. Despite the hectic pace of keeping up with her political activities and raising five children, she always arranged to have dinner on the table shortly after her husband arrived home from work on the 5:15 train.

At one time she assisted James Michener when he was working on one of his epic novels. She and George attended several inaugural balls, including the first Eisenhower inaugural, where she wore an emerald green dress, and her husband was appropriately turned out in a midnight blue Homburg. One telling memory of that period was the year in which George, a practical and thrifty guy, announced that he had purchased a garbage disposal as a birthday gift for Ann. After a lengthy period of domestic silence he revised the story: the garbage disposal was a joke, a ruse, and diversion. What he had really bought for the big day was a pair of red alligator heels and a matching handbag. He was heard to mutter that that was the most expensive damn garbage disposal the world had ever seen.

Ann was widowed in 1967, and in due course found herself enjoying fishing and boating on the Chesapeake Bay with Ed Smith, a former Olympic athlete. She married Ed in 1972, and shortly afterward they moved to a home on the water near Annapolis, with their sport-fishing boat, *Calumet*, tied up to the dock behind the house.

A few years after Ed passed away, she moved to Carlsbad and began her life at Carlsbad by the Sea, an extremely beautiful ocean front continuing care retirement community. Seated in her chair in her living room, she could watch her beloved Padres on the tube, and also watch the sun set into the Pacific. There are lots of good things to remember about Ann Smith, and even a few things to wonder about. In 2005 she was visited by many of her children, her sister, half a dozen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. All in all, a good end to a good life.

Tom Brown

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Ex-Garrett Parkers Jim and Carol Howe are now great-grandparents. Their daughter Barbara Howe Buckingham's daughter Carol Karber had a son on November 7, 2005. The Buckinghams and Karbers all reside in the state of Washington.
- ♪ Condolences to Ed Lincoln on the death of his mother, Leona Lois Lincoln, who passed away on November 25 in Morristown, New Jersey. She was surrounded by her family, including Ed's father, all her children, and her in-laws. Ed's parents have lived in a retirement community in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, for the last 10 years.
- ♪ Yes, there was someone living in Garrett Park who was arrested for robbing banks in the

area. As of December 2, he was being held without bond in the Montgomery County jail.

- ♪ John Abraham of Montrose wants to tell us about a wonderful dining experience he and his wife had recently at Persimmon Restaurant on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, a couple of blocks north of Bradley Boulevard. This cozy place is owned and operated by GP residents Damian and Stephanie Salvatore; Damian is the chef, and Stephanie keeps the books. John had the crab cakes, and Barbara had the mahi mahi special, and they thought both meals were beautiful to look at and tasted great. The starters and desserts were incredible too—especially the cranberry rice pudding. They extend compliments to the chef (and book-keeper, too)!

GIVES

GIVES held a meeting on November 9 at the Town Hall and elected officers for 2006: Glenda Ingham, President, and Karen Anderson, Treasurer. Also, volunteers to do collections signed up for the first Saturday of each month for 2006. A few slots are still open, so please call if you have 2 hours to spare per year, or if you can be a substitute. Information and calendars for 2006 will be mailed to all participants. It was decided to try and have a Soup Supper in March 2006—more details to follow.

According to Treasurer Karen Anderson, for calendar year 2005, \$4206 was collected (an average of \$350 per month). In addition to that amount, the Soup Supper brought in \$1058. The Weymouth Block Party (for Katrina victims) brought in \$1371. Thus, the total for 2005 was \$6,635! Wonderful!

Thank you all so very much. And remember, you can still make a contribution (tax deductible) for 2005. Send to GIVES, P.O. Box 258, GP 20896. For more information about where your money goes, call Glenda Ingham.

New Year's Day Open House

After a one year hiatus, the annual New Year's Day Open House at the Town Hall is back. Join your Garrett Park friends and neighbors from 4 to 6 pm for a casual affair. The Women's Club will provide champagne and nonalcoholic beverages, and the rest (appetizers, snacks, sweets, or whatever) is up to attendees. It's the perfect chance to clear out those uneaten holiday goodies or to try some new appetizer for the new year. Or if you aren't inclined to bring anything, no excuses—come anyway. It's a nice way to welcome 2006 as you wander around between open houses. All are welcome. I am in search of a host or two; please call or e-mail if you can help out. Thanks.

Elin Quigley

We're Green Again!

Thank you, Florence Gootenberg, for the green this month. She, and we, are happy to remember our own Santa Roy, who for years portrayed that jolly red-suited man at the annual Santa arrival in Decembers past. We are now funded for the rest of this year. Any contributions for the next year?

Mary Moyer



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Letter from the Mayor

This is the season to think about gifts. In that vein I would like to highlight one of the great gifts that we have all received from our town staff of Ted Pratt, Butch Frost, Frank Breazeale, Laura Krupp, and Barbara Shidler, assisted by David Gregg, who helps with both tree and snow removal. The smooth operation of the town and its general attractiveness are largely due to their efforts. I am also grateful for all the many town events sponsored by both the Citizens Association and the Women's Club. The volunteers from these groups have given us many happy social occasions this year. Members of town committees have also given the town their time, effort, and talents. I send a very large thank you to everyone who has given so much to make Garrett Park one of the best places to live. In the coming year I hope more people join in these activities.

At the January Council meeting, the Council will pass an ordinance to update the 2006 budget. After that, the Council, our Town Administrator, and I will start working on the 2007 budget. Please think about what capital improvements or operational services you would like to see included in the next budget, and then contact a member of the Council, the Town Office, or me to talk about your ideas.

Through the efforts of Councilmember Peter Benjamin, we have overcome one major hurdle to getting our lights on Strathmore. Peter managed

to get the State Highway Administration and the Strathmore contractor to agree to split the cost of replacing the clear lenses in the lights with the frosted ones that were in the original plan. Now we need to get them ordered and installed. One day the lights will function!

Before the December Council meeting, two members of our state legislative delegation, Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegate Luiz Simmons, gave presentations about the coming General Assembly session. They also answered many questions from the audience. Delegate Barve had intended to come, but a last minute family emergency prevented him from attending. I found the exchange very useful and urge many more people to come when we invite them to come again. I have been re-appointed to the legislative committee of the Maryland Municipal League. I will be in Annapolis at least one day a week starting in January. This is an election year so there should be a lot of action.

Thank you for a very good year as your mayor. Let's work together for an even better 2006.

Carolyn Shawaker

From the PO

Starting on January 8, 2006, there will be new window hours for our PO.

- Monday to Friday: 8:30 am–5 pm; closed for lunch 1 pm–2 pm
- Saturday: 9:30 am–12:30 pm

If you have any issues or concerns about our Post Office, there is a sheet you can fill in on the table in the lobby. You will have to ask about the new parcel pickup and holding mail details. And remember, postage rates go up on January 8 also.

Our postal staff of Kathy, Donna, and Maria would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season, and thanks to the people who mailed their packages and cards early. Have you noticed the nice winter village set up on the counter? A decoration that fits our town. All it needs is a train!

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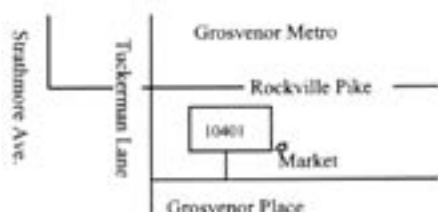
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